

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed April 22, 2005. Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1 – 32 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21 have been amended and Claims 2 – 11, 14, 15, 20 and 22 – 32 have been canceled. No new subject matter has been introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendments.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 5, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19 and 21 recite patentably distinct subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 11, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 22 – 32 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 6 – 8, 10, 14, 15 and 22 – 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,891,134 issued to Goble et al. (hereinafter, “Goble ‘134”). In additionally, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 11, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 22 – 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,210,405 issued to Goble et al. (hereinafter, “Goble ‘405”). Claims 2 – 11, 14, 15, 20 and 22 – 32 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of Claims 2 and 5. Since Claim 1 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in the present Office Action, Claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinct and allowable over the prior art references.

Additionally, Claims 16, 18, 19 and 21 have been rewritten as independent claims including the limitations of Claims 1 and 2, and Claims 7, 8, 9 or 10 respectively. Since these claims contain allowable subject matter as indicated in the present Office Action, these claims are believed to be patentably distinct and allowable over the prior art references.

Further, Claims 12, 13 and 17 have been amended to correct their dependencies. Specifically, Claims 12 and 13 depend from Claim 1 and Claim 17 depends from Claim 16. Since Claims 12, 13 and 17 depend from independent Claims 1 and 16, these claims include the limitations recited in those independent claims. Therefore, Claims 12, 13 and 17 are believed to be patentably distinct and allowable over the prior art references for at least the reasons provided for Claims 1 and 16.

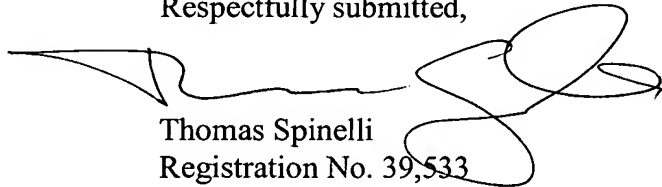
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to Claims 12, 13, 16 – 19 and 21 and of the rejections with respect to Claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1, 12, 13, 16 – 19 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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